



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Univance in Winchester Earns Governor's Safety and Health Award

Employees work more than 726,000 hours without a lost-time incident

WINCHESTER, Ky. (Sept. 29, 2014) – Secretary Larry L. Roberts of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet today presented the Governor's Safety and Health Award to employees of Univance Inc. in Winchester. The honor recognizes employees for working 726,244 hours without a lost-time accident or illness.

“The role of safety in a manufacturing facility cannot be understated, and the employees at Univance in Winchester understand that importance,” said Secretary Roberts.

“Univance deserves this award, and as a SHARP company, this reinforces the value the management and the employees place on safety.”

Univance is a subsidiary of Univance Corp., which is headquartered in Japan and is an automotive parts manufacturer for passenger and industrial vehicles. The facility in Winchester produces forklift transmissions, differentials and component parts for all-terrain vehicles and utility task vehicles, as well as transfer assembly and automotive companion flanges.

“I'm proud of our employees and delighted to be able to recognize them for their dedication to safety,” said Univance President Masatoshi Yamamoto.

“In the past two years, our total workforce has more than doubled. Despite this unprecedented growth, we continue to maintain safety as our top priority,” said Lynsey Witt, human resources manager of Univance. “We have faced different challenges with adding new customers, new equipment and many new team members, but we had an established safety culture which prepared us well.”

In Winchester since 1997, the company doubled the facility’s size in 2012 and is now undergoing another expansion. Univance has been in the Labor Cabinet’s Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) since 2009, and is one of only 21 active facilities with such a designation. The SHARP status requires injury rates below the national average, a comprehensive evaluation and series of audits, correction of all identified hazards and effective safety and health programs.

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the Governor’s Safety and Health Award in recognition of outstanding safety and health performance. An establishment may qualify for the award if its employees together achieve a required number of hours worked without experiencing a lost-time injury or illness. The required number of hours is dependent upon the number of employees. In the case of Univance, the requirement is 500,000.

Every establishment within the geographical boundaries of Kentucky is eligible, even if the establishment achieved the award the previous year. Eligibility is limited to one award during a 12-month period of time.

The award is a certificate mounted on a wooden plaque. The certificate contains the signatures of Gov. Steve Beshear, Secretary Roberts and Department of Workplace Standards Commissioner Anthony Russell.

For more on the Governor’s Safety and Health Award, and for a list of past recipients, click [here](#).

The Governor’s Safety and Health Award program is part of Gov. Beshear’s efforts to improve the health of all Kentuckians. The Governor launched [kyhealthnow](#) in February as an aggressive and wide-ranging initiative to significantly reduce incidents and deaths from Kentucky’s dismal health rankings and habits. It builds on Kentucky’s successful implementation of health care reform and uses multiple strategies over the next several years to improve the state’s collective health.

For more on Univance, visit www.uvc.co.jp/english.

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The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth's more than 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers' compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov/.

